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Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 Cancelled.

Claim 18 (amended) An apparatus comprising:

an all terrain vehicle (ATV) transmission, having a transmission shaft and a transmission housing, wherein the transmission shaft is configured to facilitate coupling thereto and power is transferred from the ATV's engine to the transmission shaft without a belt; wherein at least part of the ATV transmission is located between the driver's legs when the driver is seated on the ATV; and

a transmission shaft extension releaseably connectable with the transmission shaft, the transmission housing having an opening through which the transmission shaft extension can be accessed such that energy can be transferred to an external device, without removing an auxiliary starter from the ATV's engine.

Claim 19 (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the external device is a power takeoff unit.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the power takeoff unit includes a hydraulic pump and the apparatus can generate at least three thousand (3,000)

Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

pounds per square inch of hydraulic pressure with a volume flow of approximately ten (10) gallons per minute.

Claim 21 (original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

a sub-transmission shift plate, the sub-transmission shift plate containing a position to place the transmission in neutral such that power is not transferred to the wheels of the ATV when the sub-transmission shift plate is oriented in the position.

Claim 22 (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the position is between a high gear position and a low gear position.

Claim 23 (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the position is between a low gear position and a super low gear position.

Claim 24 (amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in an Artic Cat 250 or an Artic Cat 300 ATV, up to and including model year 2004.

Claim 25 (amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in a Suzuki LT-F4WDX or a Suzuki LT-F4WD ATV, up to and including model year 2004.

Claim 26 (amended) An apparatus comprising:

Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

an all terrain vehicle (ATV) transmission, having a transmission shaft and a transmission housing, and power is transferred from the ATV's engine to the transmission shaft without a belt, wherein the transmission shaft is configured to facilitate coupling thereto, wherein at least part of the ATV transmission is located between the driver's legs when the driver is seated on the ATV; and

an opening in the transmission housing, through which the transmission shaft can be accessed such that energy can be transferred to an external device, without removing an auxiliary starter from the ATV's engine.

Claim 27 (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the external device is a power takeoff unit.

Claim 28 (amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in an Artic Cat 250 or an Artic Cat 300 ATV, up to and including model year 2004.

Claim 29 (amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in a Suzuki LT-F4WDX or a Suzuki LT-F4WD ATV, up to and including model year 2004.

Claim 30-43 Canceled.

Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

Claim 44 (New) A method for adapting an existing all terrain vehicle (ATV) transmission, comprising:

providing a hole within an existing ATV transmission case, wherein the hole is aligned with the ATV's transmission shaft, and at least a part of the existing ATV transmission is disposed between a rider's feet when the rider is seated on the ATV;

modifying the existing ATV transmission shift plate to provide a first neutral position between an existing high gear position and an existing low gear position for the existing ATV transmission, wherein power is transferred to the ATV transmission shaft when the existing ATV transmission is placed in the first neutral position, without using a belt to transfer the power.

Claim 45 (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the transmission case is a sub-transmission case.

Claim 46 (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the existing ATV transmission is a transmission used in an ATV before model year 2005 and the ATV is selected from the group consisting of an Artic Cat 250, an Artic Cat 300 ATV, a Suzuki LT-F4WDX, and a Suzuki LT-F4WD ATV.

Claim 47 (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

modifying the existing ATV transmission shift plate to provide a second neutral position between an existing low gear position and an existing super-low gear position of

Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

the ATV transmission, wherein power is delivered to the existing ATV transmission shaft when the existing ATV transmission is placed in the second neutral position.

Claim 48 (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the existing ATV transmission is a transmission used in an ATV before model year 2005 and the ATV is selected from the group consisting of an Artic Cat 250, an Artic Cat 300 ATV, a Suzuki LT-F4WDX, and a Suzuki LT-F4WD ATV.

Claim 49 (New) An apparatus comprising:

an all terrain vehicle (ATV) transmission, having a transmission shaft and a transmission housing, and power is transferred from the ATV's engine to the transmission shaft without a belt, wherein the transmission shaft is configured to facilitate coupling thereto, wherein at least part of the ATV transmission is located between the driver's legs when the driver is seated on the ATV;

an opening in the transmission housing, through which the transmission shaft can be accessed such that energy can be transferred to a power take-off unit, without removing an auxiliary starter from the ATV's engine; and

a sub-transmission shift plate, the sub-transmission shift plate containing a first neutral position and a second neutral position, wherein an angular position of a shift rod can be adjusted to place the sub-transmission in neutral such that power is not transferred to the wheels of the ATV and the first neutral position is located between a high gear position and a low gear position and the second neutral position is located between the low gear position and a super low gear position.

Appl. No. 10/735,950
Response dated February 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of 01/24/2007

Claim 50 (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in an Artic Cat 250 or an Artic Cat 300 ATV, up to and including model year 2004.

Claim 51 (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the ATV transmission is a transmission used in a Suzuki LT-F4WDX or a Suzuki LT-F4WD ATV, up to and including model year 2004.